

## Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-14 ISO-00 IO-14 SCCT-02 SY-04

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 DRC-01 /130 W  
----- 009941

O R 131040Z JUN 74

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3508

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 0989

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, WB

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF CONVICTED ARAB TERRORISTS FROM BERLIN

REF: STATE 122117, BERLIN 0953, BERLIN 0982

1. GOVERNING MAYOR AT MEETING WITH COMMANDANTS AND MINISTERS  
THIS AFTERNOON (JUNE 12) SAID THAT HIS DECISION TO RELEASE TWO  
ARAB TERRORISTS FROM PRISON AND DEPORT THEM WAS DIFFICULT ONE.  
HE RECOGNIZED THAT IT MIGHT ENCOURAGE TERRORISM; HE ALSO  
RECOGNIZED THAT IT WOULD NOT SERVE TO FRIGHTEN OFF TERRORISTS.  
HOWEVER, HE SAID PROBLEM OF CONTINUED IMPRISONMENT OF ARAB TERRORISTS  
CREATED POLITICAL DILEMMA FOR HIM AND HE SAW NO OTHER WAY  
OUT EXCEPT TO TAKE DECISION TO RELEASE AND DEPORT.

2. HE SAID BASIS FOR ACTION WAS ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE REPORTS  
WHICH INDICATED THAT PALESTINIANS INTENDED TAKE JEWISH CHILDREN  
IN BERLIN HOSTAGE TO FORCE THE RELEASE OF THE TWO IMPRISONED  
TERRORISTS. GIVEN BERLIN'S NAZI PAST AND SPECIAL RESPONSIB-  
ILITY GOVERNING MAYOR FEELS BERLIN HAS TO JEWISH POPULATION  
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OF CITY, SCHUETZ SAID IT WAS QUITE CLEAR THAT HE HAD NO CHOICE

BUT TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO PROTECT THE THREATENED CHILDREN AND REDUCE THE POSSIBILITY OF LOSS OF LIFE TO ABSOLUTE MINIMUM. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, HE WAS CONVINCED THAT HE HAD NO REAL CHOICE BUT TO RID THE CITY OF THE IMPRISONED TERRORISTS. TO HIM IT MADE MORE SENSE TO EXPEL THE ARABS IN ADVANCE OF RATHER THAN AFTER THE FACT. AT A MINIMUM, HE FELT THIS TACTIC WOULD SAVE INNOCENT HUMAN LIFE.

3. HE APOLOGIZED FOR LACK OF CONSULTATION WITH ALLIES BUT HE SAID HE WAS OF THE VIEW THAT HE REALLY HAD NO ALTERNATIVE AND THAT THE ACTION HAD TO BE TAKEN EXPEDITIOUSLY.

4. IN RESPONSE TO CRITICISM FROM THE COMMANDANTS, HE ADMITTED THAT THE PRESS HANDLING OF MATTER LEFT MUCH TO BE DESIRED. HE REGRETTED THAT MORE WAS PUT OUT THAT NEEDED TO HAVE BEEN SAID. BUT SINCE THAT COULD NOT BE REPEATED NOT BE UNDONE, HE WAS OF VIEW THAT BEST TACTIC NOW WAS TO PUT THE QUIETUS ON FURTHER PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF MATTER TO THE EXTENT THAT THIS WAS WITHIN SENAT'S POWER.KLEIN

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PINS, WB  
**To:** STATE BONN  
**Type:** TE  
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